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slogan. Immediate, cordial, interested service is her reason for existence. To further these aims she must read widely, persistently, lovingly, that she may pass on her enthusiasm to her staff and patrons. Cut all possible corners of routine, adopt new methods wherever helpful, but do what is done well and conscientiously. Even with a small staff, regular and frequent staff meetings will be of much help, especially if the librarian is willing to take suggestions from any member of the staff. Newspaper publicity helps by advertising the library to the largest possible public, and by compelling the librarian to live up to her promises. Criticism as well as co-operation should be asked from all classes of patrons, and an effort made to have the best and latest information on all subjects of especial interest to the town, however limited the book collection. New interests must be foreseen and up-to-date material provided; and the library's own resources supplemented by borrowing from state libraries material for the patron whose peculiar interests it is inexpedient to satisfy from a limited book fund. Use re-

liable book reviews to insure getting the best for your money, let your public enjoy giving or loaning you the special material their occupational knowledge makes available, and make the thorough familiarity with the books you have compensate for a small collection. And first, last and all the time, give service—enthusiastic, persistent, sincere.

In discussing these papers emphasis was laid on the real necessity for knowing all the practicable short-cuts for a small library, and for cutting routine to a minimum, and the suggestion made that a definite place be made on next year's program of the round table for a thorough consideration of this topic. Flora B. Roberts, librarian of the Kalamazoo Public Library, as chairman of the Nominating Committee recommended for chairman of next year's meeting, Margaret Wade, librarian of the public library, Anderson, Indiana, and for secretary, Elizabeth Ronan of Battle Creek, Michigan. The report was adopted and the meeting adjourned.

ELIZABETH C. RONAN,  
Secretary pro tem.

## TRAINING CLASS INSTRUCTORS ROUND TABLE

A round table of training class instructors was held at the Detroit Public Library on Wednesday evening, June 28, in the staff auditorium. In the absence of the officers, Lucy L. Morgan of Detroit acted as chairman, and Carrie E. Scott of Indianapolis as secretary.

A report on the organization of the section of training class instructors prepared by Julia A. Hopkins, supervisor of staff instruction, Brooklyn Public Library, was read by Marie A. Newberry, supervisor of training, Public Library, Toledo, Ohio. The adoption of the report was moved by George F. Bowerman and was carried unanimously. It was then voted to authorize the acting chairman to present the petition asking for the organization of a train-

ing class section, to the A. L. A. Council with the 25 required signatures. A discussion of a name for this section followed. The following were proposed: Staff training section, training section, and preparatory training section. It was voted to use the name Training Class Section in the petition.

Since the section had, as yet, no organization, it was voted to continue Julia A. Hopkins as chairman for the ensuing year.

Then followed a discussion of the practice work of apprentices and students of training classes as handled in individual libraries. A list of libraries registered as interested in staff training, compiled from the questionnaire sent out by Miss Hopkins, was distributed.

CARRIE E. SCOTT,  
Secretary pro tem.

## TRUSTEES SECTION

The Trustees Section met in the ball room of the Statler Hotel on June 27, with a large attendance. In the absence of Presi-

dent Pettingell, Mrs. Elizabeth Claypool Earl presided.

The subject of the day: WHAT MUST

BE DONE TO SECURE INCREASED FUNDS FROM TAXATION FOR THE NEEDS OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARIES? was opened with an address on

### THE HIGH COST OF FREE PUBLIC LIBRARIES\*

By ARTHUR A. STEARNS, *Vice-President, Cleveland Public Library Board.*

Free public libraries, like free public schools, paid for by public taxation, are the source of much pride to the American people.

The economics of free things is a difficult problem. Less than one-fifth of the population pay taxes and when tax rates are high and burdensome, there is bound to be some reaction against the apparent inequality of the minority being obliged to pay all the bills in the benefits of which the non-paying majority also share.

The taxpayer is reconciled to the payment of those public charges which protect his property and safeguard his rights, such as police and fire protection and such governmental functions as the courts and things of like character, even though the majority of the people enjoys the same protection and pays nothing.

The taxpayer is also beginning to visualize and appreciate the necessity of an educated citizenship and the perils of ignorance.

The library is not only furnishing books to those who habitually read but is pressing the opportunity of books and the knowledge of their contents upon those who are ignorant and unacquainted with the blessings of books. The educational value of the public library justifies the taxation for its support as much if not more than any other public budget.

Those in charge of public libraries must continue to demonstrate their value as an element contributing to the peace and prosperity of the community.

Library workers must continue to sell the library proposition to the public as a protection and safeguard against an uneducated and uninformed citizenship, and public revenues in the end will respond with increasing liberality.

The next address was

### THE LIBRARY AS A MUNICIPAL INVESTMENT\*

By WILLIAM L. PIELOW, *Milwaukee Public Library Board*

Back of the proposition assigned for discussion, WHAT MUST BE DONE TO SECURE INCREASED FUNDS FROM TAXATION FOR THE NEEDS OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES? we must recognize first of all the fundamental principle of merit, if we are to get the popular support. The axiom "He profits most who serves best" is applicable and should govern.

Municipal activities have so increased in scope and in expense that taxes have mounted rapidly and the public is apt to become impatient. Public libraries have then competition for appropriations of the tax funds and many organizations are back of municipal activities which demand tax support. The only salvation for a library is to get into the consciousness of every citizen in the community and particularly the live wires,—the persons who do things. We must see to it that the public library has more boosters than has any other activity. An eternal and aggressive policy of publicity must be followed, publicity which is secured in part through service, and publicity which employs every art and method known to the advertiser: posters, lists, newspapers, reading courses, in short everything that forces the library into the consciousness of the people, not in a boasting way, but in order that the people may be gradually convinced that a public library is a utility and not a luxury.

This is fundamental: For an increased public library appropriation, there must be valid reasons. These when properly presented, are bound to receive consideration by the average city official, be he alderman or mayor. It is up to trustees and librarians to prove the necessity or desirability for additional funds. If done in a right spirit and with intelligence, who dare say it will not be forthcoming?

It is the duty of public library trustees to practice intelligent and well-directed economies, but it would be no economy—it would, on the contrary, be profligate waste—to permit worth-while book selections, or

\*Abstract.

\*Abstract.

saving wage schedules, or needed expansion to be passed up year after year.

We need not be apologetic about our institution. No cause can be greater than that which seeks to raise America's manhood and womanhood to the highest power of true citizenship. Hence, let us fight valiantly for a financial support of public libraries so that their future may not become imperiled; so that good libraries will abound, so that librarians will be properly compensated.

Until we discover a surer way to develop good citizens than through free public education, upon which the foundations of a sound national life are necessarily built, it behooves all loyal, patriotic Americans to stand solidly back of our public schools and public libraries.

I would emphasize these points:

First, we must recognize the principle that there must be a centralized control of municipal expenditures vested in a democratically constituted body—the city council.

Second, in order to make good with the city council and with the people we must be ready to serve every individual in the community—public officials, business men, professional men, manufacturers, and mechanics as well as scholars.

Third, a library's work, no matter how good, will not result in adequate appropriations unless we force into the consciousness of every citizen the fact that the library is in fact ready to serve all, that it is a public utility and not a luxury. To do this we must practice a policy of aggressive and continuous publicity, using the word "publicity" in its broadest sense; a publicity that is based on actual service but which employs also every device known to the publicity expert, every art which is calculated to bring the library into the consciousness of the people.

Then followed an address on

#### LIBRARY FINANCING\*

By W. L. JENKS of the Port Huron Public Library Board, Michigan

There are two ways to obtain moneys from taxation for the support of public

libraries, (1) by receipts from state funds, (2) through local taxation. I do not look for any results from the first source as the state is constantly finding more and more necessary and immediate purposes for all its receipts. It is true there is some precedent in Michigan and perhaps in some other states where, under the constitution of the state the receipts from specific taxes are placed in the primary school fund to be devoted entirely to education in that form.

Receipts from local taxation may be acquired by legislative action requiring a minimum sum to be raised for the purpose of supporting public libraries. There are good reasons for thinking such action would be desirable as there are many communities that unless compelled by state action to do something in the line of library support, would be very slow to act.

In Ontario municipalities are required to raise not less than fifty cents per head of the population. If a state law were passed along this line, enough could be done under it to give libraries a good start and enable them to create the necessary sentiment.

The importance of a public library for adults, both in the way of education and in mental recreation must be emphasized and reiterated and much publicity given to these points in order to create the necessary public sentiment. This is likely to be a matter of rather slow growth but the favor and support of libraries must ultimately depend upon that.

The subject of education of young people has been so greatly emphasized over a long period of years that the general public now willingly pays heavy taxes for that purpose—much larger than for any other single purpose.

The importance of furnishing means of education to adults through the public library has not been sufficiently exploited, and it is by doing this that the people can be aroused to demanding that reasonable sums be raised and applied to the support of public libraries.

The next address was

\*Abstract.

# PUBLIC LIBRARIES A BOND OF BRITANNIC AMERICAN BROTHERHOOD\*

By REV. ROBERT J. RENISON, *Hamilton, Ontario.*

Your courteous invitation has encouraged me to speak of our common literature as a bond of brotherhood. The public library should be the agent for the diffusion of life and light to the minds of men. Books are living things. A really great book is alive. Cut it anywhere and it will bleed. When you take up the book of some great soul who ranks among the immortals, you have accomplished that mental transfusion which is the highest phase of reading.

The man who reads books can create for himself a world of his own. For fifteen years I have lived far beyond the frontier of civilization on the shores of Hudson's Bay. In the winter nights when the snow drifted high above the windows of the log house, and the northern lights hung like golden beads from the rosary of heaven and the pine trees stood like frozen sentinels outside, when the lamp was lit within and the logs piled on the hearth, that little mission house became for a time a stage for the greatest of mankind. Kings and queens, poets, prophets, heroes and martyrs have lived with me there. I have heard Tennyson sing at my own fireside—with Shakespeare's historical plays from John to Henry VIII. I have lived through the mists of the dawn of English history. I have read Carlyle's picture of the French Revolution. Dickens and Edgar Allen Poe have taken me to Dingy Dell and the Rue du Morgue. I have gone with Peary on his journey to the North Pole. I have read the glorious message of Robert Scott from his shrine and tomb amid the eternal antarctic snows and heard the cheery song from that tent where gallant English gentlemen showed the world how to die.

The river of our history comes from a common source. Almost at the beginning came the revolution, the Niagara of English history, an episode which, though with regret, we may look back upon as providential in the wisdom of the Eternal. Then

came the whirlpool and rapids of the early nineteenth century—our misunderstanding, our mutual recriminations and family quarrels, just enough to show that we had once been children of the same great mother. Then we find ourselves today in the stream of the lower Niagara, with the great space of Ontario standing in the distance. There may be difficulties in the future but none, I trust, which wisdom and love may not solve. The rapids of the Lachine have been conquered by the patience and engineering skill of those who speak your tongue and mine. Then beyond the great St. Lawrence of our common future, who shall know what is before us, our people, in that great river that flows clear through the centuries to the great ocean of eternity?

The final address was

# WHAT MUST BE DONE TO SECURE INCREASED FUNDS\*

By JOHN H. LEETE, *Director, Carnegie Library, Pittsburgh.*

Education, inspiration, culture, all of these things are recognized as a necessity in a republic and in a democracy, but the function of the library in providing these things is not fully recognized. We are giving recreation, education, inspiration and culture but not to all of the community. We are supplementing the work of the public schools in our colleges, but we have not yet fully made the library an integral part of our system of free public education. We are doing a big service, but there still remains much to do. We are doing something in Americanization. We are doing something in creating the respect which is necessary in a democracy for law and order. So my first point is we must do a bigger job to get more money; and the second point is we must bring it home to the community.

I would emphasize the fact that in dealing with city authorities, the facts must be concrete, concise, and in business form, and graphic when possible.

We needed more money for books. We found it in our library very effective to show just how rapidly books wear out. We

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have the definite figures showing just how much of our money goes for replacing those old books, just how much for new books that we may buy, and just how many reservations we have waiting for those books.

We need more money for salaries. We have compared our salaries in Pittsburgh with the salaries of scrub women, with the salaries of plasterers and carpenters, with the salaries of school teachers, and with the salaries of librarians in other cities; in other words, we have brought home to the business man, in a statement in the council, a definite comparison of salaries and books in a way that he can understand, and it has been very effective.

I would emphasize just one further point on that question of publicity, and that is where additional money is asked for, the specific purpose for which it is to be used should be stated, and then that specific purpose must be definitely fulfilled.

The third point, and the last one is that we must organize the support of the active and influential people and organizations of the community. The most self-respecting way to do that is to ask return for services rendered by the library. Now I have mentioned a few incidents. We have done less in Pittsburgh than in other cities, but we have made a beginning. For example, we were badly in need of funds for our technical literature, and we went to the Pittsburgh chapter of the American Clinical Society and asked for more money. We finally found, after considerable effort, a man who would head a committee to go after more funds from the industries in the district which our technology department was serving. As a result a considerable fund, something over \$2,500, was immediately available, but that was not the best part of it. Last year when the talk of retrenchment was so strong, and necessarily so, in all city governments, the same men who had contributed went to the city government and requested that the library

be not cut with the other departments, but be afforded adequate support. And the council was greatly influenced, far more influenced by letters from this committee of engineers than they would have been influenced by any library authorities.

The second thing is that we must organize foreign language newspapers of the city. We got all the editors of the foreign language newspapers into a meeting at the library. There were some 25 of them. Some of them would not speak to each other, but they all spoke to us and we told them of the policy and the purpose of library work, and as a result their support was secured in the following campaign.

A definite campaign in the Chamber of Commerce in supporting some of their ideas brought results. The object was to organize the support of those active and influential organizations of the community which the library is serving. In every case, the organization was most happy to render a return for that service, and in that way expressed some appreciation of what the library was to them and what it meant to the community.

Mr. Willard, of the Minnesota State Board of Education, precipitated an animated discussion, when he advocated the union of the library and school boards. Washington Porter, of Cincinnati, Judge Wildermuth, of Gary, and Mr. Craig of Evansville, spoke in opposition to this idea.

After the election of officers: President, Mrs. Elizabeth Claypool Earl, Muncie; vice-president, W. L. Jenks, Port Huron; secretary, Mrs. Dwight Peterson, Toledo, and the adoption of a resolution voicing the approval of the section of the policy of one dollar per capita for good libraries, the meeting adjourned to join the Detroit Library Commission, which entertained at dinner all visiting trustees in the dining room of the new library.

ORA THOMPSON ROSS,  
Secretary.

## UNIVERSITY LIBRARY EXTENSION SERVICE ROUND TABLE

A meeting of persons interested in university library extension service was held at Ann Arbor, Thursday, June 29, at 10 a. m.,

in connection with the annual conference of the American Library Association at Detroit and Ann Arbor.